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THE
CONDUCT
OF THE
REGENTS or RULERS
OF THE
REPUBLIC
OF THE
UNITED PROVINCES,
DURING THE
PRESENT WAR.

M. M. S. J. S.
K
By a DUTCH GENTLEMAN.

Odi profanum Vulgus, et arceo. HORAT.

Translated from the ORIGINAL.

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CONDUCT

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REGENTS & ALIENS

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*All True Patriots who have a Seat
in the Assembly of their High
Mightinesses, the States-General.*

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS!

BE pleased not to take it amiss, that the following Sheets are inscribed to you: because, if they receive your Sanction, they will be effectually secured against the suppressive Arts of those Traitors who still swarm amongst us.

THE Reasons that have induced me to write this little Treat, are, first, The Love of my Country: secondly, A Desire to convince the World, that our Netherlands have been reduced to their present unhappy Situation, meerly through the Unskilfulness, Neglect, or Treachery of the Administration: and, thirdly, The Hopes of engaging every honest Man of your Assembly, in Concurrence with his Serene Highness, our Stadtholder (heretofore scorned and slighted by the French Faction) in an earnest Consideration; whether the Welfare of your Country, for which you must be heartily concerned, does not demand that those who have hitherto had the Management of the State's Affairs, and in part still have, should be deprived of their Authority, and consequently, of the Power of abusing it. And I

make no doubt, but it will clearly appear to your H. M. *ex Rebus ipsis et Factis*, that they are a Nuisance to the Republic, the Bane of all its Happiness, and therefore ought to be driven from it's Honours, it's Emoluments, it's lowest and most inconsiderable Concerns.

GOD grant that your H. M. may take some such salutary Resolution; and thereby oblige the best Inhabitants of your Provinces, and convince the World, that no Circumstances of Person, Place or Power, can disarm your Justice, and prevent your punishing the Evil-doer, and rewarding him that doth well.

THAT Heaven may inspire you still more and more with the Sentiments of true Patriotism, and preserve your H. M. Persons and Families long, very long, for the Defence and Safety of the Republic, is the ardent Wish of

High and Mighty Lords,

Your High Mightinesses

Most humble and hearty Servant,

M. D. J. S. U.

THE



THE
CONDUCT
OF THE
REGENTS
OF THE
UNITED PROVINCES.

*Da Veniam Scriptis ; quorum, non Gloria nobis,
Causa, sed Utilitas Officiumque, fuit.*

Ovid. Epist. ex Pont. Lib. III. 9.

WHO is there so little versed in the Fate of Nations, that has not observed how the most powerful and magnificent, thro' the Ignorance, Neglect, or Treachery, of its Members have fallen from their Glory, and stood exposed to absolute and inevitable Destruction? Many Proofs may be produced from History to confirm this Truth: But it is sufficient for our Purpose, to turn the Attention of our Readers to the once flourishing and powerful Con-

Condition of the Republic of the *United Netherlands*. Very powerful she was indeed! when Private Interest was laid aside for the Public Benefit, and she was governed and made great by wise and brave Princes, the Fathers of their Country! But this glorious Scene is now closed; and we feel the woful Consequence when private Concerns prevail above the public Good; when the Reins of Government are entrusted to the Hands of wicked People, who seek only their own Grandeur, without regarding by what Methods they acquire it. Rulers like these put the Welfare of Thousands to the Hazard; and yet never once consider (so absolute is their Ignorance) that when the public Welfare sinks, their private Concerns must equally decline, and be blended with the common Ruin. This immoderate vile Indulgence of private Interest, is the grand Spring from whence have flowed all those Calamities, the *Netherlands* now groan under. From hence proceeded the little Regard paid to the *Abilities* of those Persons who were trusted with any Employment Civil or Military. Such an Examination and Test of Merit was supposed needless, and unworthy of Attention; the Question being only, in how near a Relation the Candidate stood to the Person who had the Disposal of a Place: And it was a common Boast, that one was a Grandson or Cousin of a Burgomaster, and consequently (according to their usual Phrase) had a Patron and Protector, whose Favour he was secure of.

What mighty Encouragement could our young Gentlemen have to acquire Knowledge in any of those Arts, that are necessary to fit them for the public Service? What Inducement to retain even what they had learned? when it was an established Custom, nay almost a Law, that every Burgomaster, who had the Disposal of any Place or Office, should

should, qualified or not, provide for his whole Family without Distinction: so that in some Towns in *Holland*, the whole Regency has consisted of Persons nearly related to each other: and where the Laws have irreverently interfered to oppose this Practice, something *in fraudem Legis* has been arbitrarily introduced.

Such, Readers, have been the Governors of the Republic of the *United Netherlands*: and I firmly believe, that if each of these Gentlemen was perfectly known, it would not at all seem strange, that the Republic has, for some Years past, pursued such a Conduct as manifestly tended to her own Destruction.

After the Death of the Emperor *Charles VI.* the Troubles began in *Europe*, occasioned by the Ambition of the *most Christian King*, whose Views are not to be bounded by the most solemn Treaties; but, trampling on the Faith of Nations, aim at nothing less than the making him sole Monarch and Tyrant of *Europe*: a Behaviour that entirely contradicts the Character implied in the Name appropriated to him: *Sed nil nisi nomen habet.*

The Queen of *Hungary*, the King of *England*, and the King of *Sardinia*, armed themselves to oppose these oppressive Schemes and used their strongest Efforts to engage the Republic of the United Provinces, who was not only bound thereto by Treaties, but whose natural Interest dictated such an Union) to join with them against the common Enemy, but all their Endeavours were in vain. We begun to have such a high Taste for *French* Flattery, that instead of immediately arming, we took more Delight in sending Ambassadors to the Court of our grand Foe, to be injured by Degrees to Slavery, and to attend his Steps as their Lord and Master. If his Majesty *Lewis* was at *Paris*, *Monsieur Le Grand Pensionnaire*, and
Mr.

Mr. T***** were there ; was he at *Verfailles* they were there also ; if he went to *Flanders* to gather Laurels, and shew his Valour to the People, they spanielled him at heel even there ; and had the Honour to compliment his Majesty on his Victory, when the conquered City was garrisoned with our own Troops, who were made Prisoners of War, in a most scandalous Manner.

The most Christian King was at the beginning in some Measure pleased with the Conduct of the Republic, and in Acknowledgment his Majesty assured us of his Friendship, nay, he went so far as to call us his good Friends ; although an upright *Hollander* ought to blush to be called the Friend of such a false and treacherous Nation. Such wonderful things did the Grand Pensionary endeavour to effect, as to make Friendship subsist between an honest and a perfidious Nation, whose Faith is not to be trusted any longer than as it suits with it's own particular Interest. It was on Account of this Friendship, I suppose, that his *French* Majesty took our Fortifications : It is only from sincere Friendship, that his most Christian Majesty takes our Land-Forces Prisoners, and detains them without permitting them to be ransomed : It is only Friendship that spurs on *Lewis* to make himself master of the *Netherlands* : And every thing he has done is from pure zealous cordial Friendship, the Love he bears our Country !

I am very sorry, O Grand Pensionary, that the *French* laugh at having so grossly deceived you. You was not acquainted with that Nation : And to tell you the Truth, Sir, you were not fit to act the Part assigned you, it was too high for the reach of your Capacity ; you was not brought up to it : the being able, as a Lawyer, to form a right Conclusion from a Demand and Answer, is a quite different Thing

Thing from the Office of an Ambassador: Those who would excel in that ought to see the World; which would teach them the Genius and Humour of the Nation where they are to reside: If you had known that, then you would have known that *French* Friendship is Deceit, and that the warmer their Professions are, the more they intend to deceive. And in Fact such Success have these Professions been attended with, that the Republic has not in a manner put herself in a Posture of Defence; nor seconded the vigorous Measures of her Allies, nor executed her Treaties. The Court of *England* was, with Reason, disgusted with the Conduct of the Republic during this War: for so far from thinking how we might give Satisfaction to the Allies, we were not yet entirely determined whether we should submit to *France* or no: It was therefore thought proper, in compliance with the Fashion of the Times, to send an Ambassador to *London*, (although we had already a Minister there) if possible to excuse at that Court the Proceedings of the Republic; accordingly one was sent, not wholly untainted with the Notions of our Grand Pensionary. Having thus concerted our Measures, it was thought expedient to accept of a Neutrality; and the City of *Amsterdam*, in particular, endeavoured with all her Might to bring it to bear; but such a powerful Opposition was made against it, especially by the Province of *Zealand*, that Monsieur *Le Grand Pensionaire*, in order to be esteemed Master of the very Depths of Policy, actually advised the *French* Ministers at the last Conferences at *Breda*, (recommending the Scheme with the warmest Assurances of Success) to turn the Arms of the King their Master against *Dutch Flanders*; and thereby reduce the *Zealanders* to such Extremities, as should force them to accept of the Neutrality. The *French* Court immediately complied

with the Advice, and dispatched *Lowendabl* to effect the great and noble Purpose. This was a plain and flagrant Proof of the good Harmony, and close Correspondence, subsisting between the Court of *France*, and our worthy Pensionary.

Mr. G*** hereupon indulged his Arrogance to a great Height ; believing himself of such Importance, that even the Court of *France* was ambitious to procure, and follow his Advice ; but in this Instance it produced a quite different Effect, from what his great Penetration had suggested : For so far from forcing the Province of *Zealand* into a Neutrality ; this Step engaged them in the very opposite Conduct ; and they immediately declared his serene Highness the Prince of *Orange*, Stadtholder, Captain-General and Admiral in Chief : Bravely resolving to rescue their Liberties from the licentious Controul of self-interested Men ; and repose them once again with that Family, that had so often, so nobly, and so effectually appeared in their Defence.

*Let Treachery, Hell, and Lewis sound thy Praise
G*** ! while honest Minds condemn the Wretch
Who sells his Country. Base, degenerate Slave !
Long in thy Breast th' enormous Treason lurk'd.*

In Imitation of this worthy Example of *Zealand*, the People of the Province of *Holland* began to open their Eyes, and likewise declared his Highness Stadtholder ; which was soon followed by the remaining Provinces. For which desired Change in the Government of our Country, we have great Reason to be thankful to the Almighty ; for unless it had taken Place, in all Probability the Republic of the *United Netherlands*, would, by this Time, have been a conquered Province to
France.

France. Thus far have we taken a cursory view of what has passed, in order to an Examination of the two following Articles.

First, Whether, throughout the whole Proceedings of the reigning Party, their Unskilfulness, Neglect, and Treachery, do not manifestly appear? And,

Secondly, Whether the Administration of any Affairs should be entrusted to them hereafter?

Every Body is sensible, that the reigning Party consisted of those, who distinguished themselves by their Opposition to the serene House of *Orange*: Who would rather hazard the Loss of their Liberties and Religion, than consent that that House should enjoy the Privileges that belonged to it; and who had engaged each other, by the most solemn Oaths, to crush, as far as laid in their Power, all Remains of that illustrious Family. This Party was by far the strongest; and ruled the Republic in such an arbitrary Manner, that the Minority, which consisted of many brave Patriots, who had the Welfare of the Republic sincerely at Heart, were scarcely permitted to speak; at least they seldom made a Motion but what was scornfully rejected, because supported by the Friends of the Prince of *Orange*. It was with the deepest Concern, they were obliged to see and suffer the bad Resolutions taken among them, which only tended to the Republic's Ruin; and that in their Assembly, Unskilfulness, Neglect and Treachery were predominant. We shall examine their Conduct according to this threefold Division.

And *first*, as to *Unskilfulness* in the Management of the Public Business. It is a plain Principle, that those who are advanced to Places of Trust and Power in a Commonwealth, ought to have a clear and nice Discernment of its true Interests, and

every thing that can either retard or promote them ; and particularly a consummate Knowledge in the Duties of those Stations they respectively fill.

Now the Question is, whether, according to this Test, the Gentlemen of the ruling Party, were not absolutely unskilful in the affairs of their Country, and have not taken a false and delusive Appearance for the true Interest of the Republic ? Certainly they have ; as is too evident from their not engaging, to the full Exertion of their whole Power, in the present War. At first Sight, indeed, there appears something in the opposite Conduct, to favour a reasonable System, because all War is supposed prejudicial to the Republick, as a trading People : But when we come to examine this a little closer, it must necessarily fall to the Ground ; for the true Interest of the Republick requires, that the Ballance of *Europe* should be inviolably maintained ; that is, that *France* must not grow too powerful, and thereby become absolute Mistress over *Europe*. *Nunc quæritur*, whether the Queen of *Hungary*, and the King of *England*, without the Assistance of the Republic, are able to oppose the Power of *France* so effectually, as to confine her within proper Bounds ? certainly they are not ; as has appeared but too plainly, in the course of the present War. The Case then standing thus, the natural Interest, and the very Preservation of the Republic, obliged her in the beginning of this War, to assist her Allies, in such a manner, both by Sea and Land, as might effectually distress this incroaching Power, pluck the Wings of it's Ambition, and hinder it from prescribing Laws to all *Europe* ; and, as the Result of all, procure a safe honourable and lasting Peace : for to carry on the War in the manner the Republic has done, is the Way never to obtain a Peace, at least, such a one, as every honest Man must

must wish for. Into such Excesses of erroneous Conduct, has the Ignorance of our Rulers led them ; that with none, or, at least, very little Benefit to the common Cause, they have laid Imposts on their Inhabitants, drained their Purses, and made themselves despised and scorned in the Sight of all *Europe*.

Again : their Unskilfulness no less consisted in ruining the Public Credit ; as they effectually did when they thought proper to reduce their Bonds or Obligations, which before bore two and a half *per Cent.* Interest, to two *per Cent.* by which means the Capital of the Inhabitants was reduced, and Publick Credit taken away. The Topick indeed was, the Nation wants Money, and therefore we must find Ways and Means to supply it : but the Question is truly, whether those Ways were not really destructive of the very End proposed, especially when hereafter we may be obliged to enter into new Negotiations, as the Exigencies of our Affairs require : For how can these Gentlemen imagine, Inhabitants would lend any more Money to the Government, to reap a Benefit thereby, when at the same time they saw the Interest on their old Bonds reduced, and the Money they had already lent lessened in it's Value ? What, in the Name of common Sense, could be expected of the new Bonds ? For if these Men, *pro Libitu*, manage it so to-day with the old Bonds, to-morrow they may do the same with the new ; to the certain Destruction of many old Families, whose Capital chiefly consists in such Effects. Was there ever a greater Instance of most consummate Ignorance ? The Republic wants Money, and she herself is the occasion that she cannot get any : for to reap a reasonable Advantage, the Inhabitants cannot keep their Money at Home, but are forced to send
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it into foreign Countries ; by which means at last there will be none to be found in our own. Allow me, Gentlemen, to tell you plainly, that whoever of you it was, that made such a Proposal in your Assembly, he was a very bad Schemist : for it is a plain and undeniable Maxim, that to provide against the Exigencies of the Nation, public Credit above all is to be kept up, and taken care of ; whereas the Measures you have taken, are the only Means to ruin it ; and must especially at a Time, when it is so much wanted. We already see the Effects of this last Negotiation, in which very few would be concerned, how favourable so ever it was made to appear by false and artificial Colourings.

I could enlarge much further on the Unskilfulness of these Gentlemen, and give flagrant Proofs of their Want of Judgment, in almost every one of their Transactions ; but by so doing I should go beyond the Limits I have prescribed myself. I have therefore only touched upon those Points which are most essential to the present Times, and shall leave them to the serious Consideration of my Readers.

I now proceed to the Examination of the second Part of the Subject, namely, the *Neglect* of our Rulers ; by which I understand, that total Disregard they have discovered for the Affairs entrusted to their Care and Management ; by which means the very Life and Well-being of the Republic has miserably suffered. Without entering into the numberless Defects in the Conduct of civil Concerns, we shall content ourselves only with reviewing a little those in the military. And, first, as to our Naval Forces. Must not every one of you allow, that our Sea Forces, which used to be a Terror to all the Potentates of *Europe*, are at present little or not at all respected. Where formerly we could in a short Time fit out large
Fleets,

Fleets, at present we have enough to do to fit out a single Ship. When we had once acquired the Reputation of being powerful at Sea, (a Character we can no longer maintain) it was but a Dictate of common Prudence, tho' a long Interval of Peace did take place, to preserve our Power, in order to annoy the Enemy, and cover our own Coasts from Invasions, in case of a sudden War. What Trouble did it not give you, a few Years ago, to fit out a small Squadron of Ships, to send to the Coast of *England*? How foul and impaired they were, and how meanly provided with Necessaries, cannot only be attested by the *English*, but by your own Sea-Officers; even your very Admiral can witness it against you. And indeed, where is your Sea Power? You have no Ships to guard your own Coast, much less to send to the Assistance of your Allies.

If we consider your Land Forces, they also are miserably declined. Your Frontier Towns are neglected, and rendered incapable of any Defence. Your Magazines were not provided for; instead of finding Powder in your Barrels, they were filled up with Sand; and the Balls which should have served your Cannon were too large. In a Town, that required Ten Thousand Men for it's Defence, it was thought proper to place only Three Thousand. In short every thing was neglected, which could be neglected; and it seemed as if the Prosperity of the Republic was no more to be regarded. No Notice was taken of any thing that passed. No calling to Account any Person for Neglect of Duty; but, on the contrary, a base Connivance with, or stupid overlooking of every Man's Conduct: whereby you not only became guilty of the *Culpa levissima*, but even of the *Culpa lata*, which according to the Laws is rectified with the *Dolus*. What Regard

was

was had to the keeping up constantly so many Troops as would be sufficient to protect our Country, upon a Change in it's Situation? We did not think, seeing the Danger only at a Distance, that it was high Time to augment the Forces of the Republic; no, no, we had more Thought in what manner we should squander away those she already had. What incessant Pains did Mr. *Van Haren* take to animate you to a speedy Augmentation; and yet how slowly did you proceed in your Resolution? Nay, it came to such a pass, that the neglecting to propose such Subjects of Inquiry, or if they came to a Resolution, the Slowness in the making it, was considered as a Merit: Whereas, he who had his Country's Welfare at Heart, and persisted in laying those things before you, was looked upon as a Person too forward, too rash and precipitate. So that, according to your System, an honest and well-meaning Counsellor, ought to be one who neglects every thing; at least, who is more mindful of his own, than his Country's Welfare; and tho' unacquainted in all Respects, with the true Science of Government, would, nevertheless, vehemently oppose an understanding, zealous Patriot, who watched every Event, and was ready to sacrifice his Fortune, his Family, his Life for the public Good.

The third and last Article to be examined into, is the *Treachery* of our Governors: Of which all those are guilty, who, thro' Covetousness, or personal Disgust, or slavish Fear, have, against their Oath and Duty, pursued such a Conduct, as intended, whether directly or indirectly, the Ruin and Destruction of the Republic. To produce some Examples.

It was known to all People of Experience, that *Brussels* was not a Place of Defence, and, consequently,

quently, to lay therein a strong Garrison, would be of little Signification: why then was it done? by which Conduct, we lost the Flower of our Troops: Why, truly, because those who were of that secret C*****, had sold the City, with it's Contents, to the *French*; and in order to enhance the Price of their Commodity, they took care to provide the Place with a great deal of Artillery, and a strong Garrison.

The Prince of W*****, who was appointed General over the Troops of the Republic, to be an Obstacle to the Establishment of the Prince of *Orange*, (who at that Time had been proposed for Stadtholder by several Provinces, that were convinced, that if the Power was once lodged in his Hands, such vile Practices could no more be introduced;) this Nobleman, I say, was at the Time abovementioned, taking his Pleasures at the *Hague*, with an Intention to visit *Amsterdam*, to regale himself with some of the Burgo-masters of that City, his dear and beloved Patrons; having no thought of *Brussels*, nor indeed seeming to discover the least Concern about the Fate of it: he knew very well what had been resolved on, but was willing to keep himself still, because he likewise had a Promise of partaking of the *French* Purchase-Money; a Circumstance very favourable to his Highness's present Condition, which generally was very needy. However, to prevent all manner of Suspicion, it was thought proper to turn the Prince's Route from *Amsterdam* towards *Brussels*, in order to make a shew of relieving the Place. Our General, as was customary with him, affirmed vehemently (repeating fundry Aroltsche, or *German* Oaths, to grace his Assurances) that he would now shew the *French* some shrewd Tricks; and accordingly when they

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were

were almost Masters of the Town, he had very near collected together four Thousand Men ; and when News was brought, that the Town was taken, we were just ready to go and relieve it.

Heaven be praised, O Arolfsche Prince, that you are gone back in your Princely Dominions ! I wish you had taken along with you some of our worthy Regents, and dubbed them Barons there, to add a Lustre, if possible, to your Princely Residence.

Not only in this, but in almost every Proceeding, the blackest Treachery has appeared. It is still fresh in every Body's Memory, that a Rebellion broke out in *Scotland*, by the Contrivance and Support of *France*. In such an Exigence, the Republick of the *United Netherlands* is obliged by Treaty to send six Thousand Men to the Assistance of the reigning King. This seemingly was performed : but what Troops did they embark ? Such, as for the major part of them, were not in a Condition to serve ; who were Prisoners of War, or at least by Capitulation with *France*, could not bear Arms for almost two Years to come. These, these, were the Succours provided for a Neighbour, an Ally, a Friend ; whose Interest ought to have been your own ! And such, such was the Performance of your Treaties : Abominable Treachery ! Scandalous Country ! You thought, I suppose, of making your selves beloved at the Court of *France*, by favouring the Cause of a Popish Rebel, a Tool of *Lewis*, whom they call Pretender : But could it ever be suspected, that Treachery was so deeply rooted in your Hearts, as to engage you to favour the Designs of the worst of Nations, who has forsaken God, forsaken Law, Honour, Faith, to enslave and bring *Europe* under her Subjection ?

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You have not only acted thus with your Allies, but even with your own People. That Part of the Wealth of the Republic, produced by the Disposal of Places of Profit, instead of being employed in the Defence of your Country, has been appropriated to your own Use; to gratify your Covetousness, your Luxury, your Pride.

Some of your Clan, foreseeing well enough, that, after the Election of the Prince of *Orange* to the Dignity of Stadtholder, there must be a vast Reformation in our Management; and it being but too visible, that you had secreted and embezzled the Monies which belonged to the Republic; devised the following Artifice, with Respect to the Post Offices: namely, that after the Decease of the present Possessors, (for in their Lives time they could not properly be alienated) we should make a Tender of them to the Prince of *Orange*; but he, being too generous to make a Property of the Revenues of his Country, accepted them indeed in Shew, but immediately gave them up to the Public Benefit, as too sacred to be applied to private Uses. The City of *Amsterdam*, however, perceiving that this Expedient would deprive them and their Descendants of the Places in their Disposal, vehemently urged that the Profits arising from them, should be appropriated to the Use of the City only; not to that of the Public. But who is there that cannot see thro' the Artifice of this Pretence? For I would fain ask, would not the City still have wanted those Emoluments, if these People could have secured them for their own Families, their own Descendants? They never yet endeavoured to give them to the City, and if it really wanted them, why were they not already yielded up? In short, the plain Truth is, your Avarice is so boundless, that neither City nor

Country will be considered, so long as you can receive these Profits yourselves.

As soon as a new Impost was agreed to, you took care, there should be a new Set of Places to be disposed of, with which your own Fraternity must be invested, who in a few Years acquired thereby very considerable Fortunes; and the more Taxes that were imposed upon the Public, the more agreeable it was to you, as you then became Masters of still more Places, and their consequent Emoluments. So that we may with Reason say; that frequently new Taxes were found out, not so much for the Benefit of the Public, as to gratify your own insatiable Covetousness.

How wonderfully did some of you, who were entrusted with the Farming out the Public Revenues, manage that Business! and what Collusion with the Persons who farmed them! by which Means you not only became rich yourselves, but a Set of wretched Upstarts under you, the sudden Growth of a Dunghill, who had scarcely Bread to eat before, amassed together vast Sums in the Course of a few Years: And all out of the Revenues of your Country. Who can be surprized then, that the Public Coffers are emptied? Emptied do I say? No, no; the National Income was never brought Home, but on the contrary was devoured by those, who were appointed to collect it.

I think we have incontestably, though briefly shewn, that our Regents, by whose Conduct the Republic has been reduced to its present miserable Situation, have been guilty of each of the Charges exhibited against them, Ignorance, Neglect and Treachery: Which naturally leads me to the other general Head of Examination, namely, *Whether the Administration of any Affairs ought to be committed to them hereafter?* First, as to want of Knowledge; will

will not every one agree with me, that it would be a very great Error to entrust a Person (whose Ignorance and Inexperience we are perfectly apprized of) with the Management of any Business of Consequence? Who would depend on the Abilities of an ignorant Pilot, for the safe Conduct of a Ship? The Consequence must be according to the Proverb, the Loss of Ship, Cargo, and Life. This Instance may not be improperly applied to our Regents, who have ruled the Helm of the State in such an unskilful manner that it was just sinking to the Bottom of Perdition; and must have inevitably sunk, but for the remarkably kind Interposition of Heaven. Ought those, who are absolutely ignorant of the true Interests, the real Welfare of the Republic, to be trusted with any Office, of Consequence enough to put that Welfare and those Interests to the Hazard? They are the very Men, who, not knowing the Importance of assisting our natural Allies to the utmost of our power, have made us hated by them, and scorned by our Enemies. They are the Men, who knew not, tho' History abounds with Instances to confirm it, that *France* ought never to be trusted; that it is a Nation, who, for the sake of its curst Ambition, has banished all the Principles of Honour, Honesty, and Humanity; and whose Throne, tho' adorn'd with Smiles, and the false Glitter of tinsel Pomp and outward Shew, (sufficient indeed to dazzle our purblind Regents) is filled with Deceit, with Violence, Rapine, and Oppression.

Can those Men be supposed capable hereafter of maintaining the Reputation of their Country, who, contrary to their repeated Promise, have reduced the Interest of our Bonds to such a low rate, that they have lost all the Reputation, all the Trust they had before acquired. The Consequence of this is,
that

that in a Time of Need the State can raise no Money ; whereas, if they had kept their Words, and supported the Public Credit, there never would have been occasion to have recourse to extravagant Ways and Means for the Public Supplies. But this is their deep Knowledge, their large Experience ! God grant that they may never have an Opportunity of exerting their Skill hereafter !

With relation to the *Neglect* of our Rulers, it is asked ; Whether such Men, who have neglected every thing that was their proper essential Duty, are not to be considered as the *suspecti Tutores* of the Commonwealth ? And as all *suspecti Tutores* ought to be discharged *ob Culpam latam*, it follows, that, according to fundamental Law, these Men also should be removed from their *Tutela* : For to neglect the Land and Sea Forces, the natural and proper Bulwarks of the State, is as much a *Culpa lata*, and as great an Instance of Neglect, as any Governors could possibly be guilty of.

Lastly, as to their *Treachery* : Can any honest Patriot bear, that the Betrayers of his Country, who have sold its Laws and Liberties to its worst Enemy, and exposed its Inhabitants to Rapine, Slavery, and Death, should be permitted to appear any where, but in a Court of Judicature, a Prison, or on a Scaffold ; much less, that they should be continued in the Administration of Government, (as, *ex Rebus ipsis & Factis*, 'tis evident they do) and enjoy equally with him all the Rights and Privileges of upright Citizens. O ! unfortunate Country ! whose Assemblies are still filled with Wretches like *Sempronius*, surrounding the brave and honest *Cato* with a false Shew of Duty, and at the same time betraying his Counsels and Resolutions to the ravaging and ambitious *Cæsar*. Such are the Men, who deliver'd up our Frontiers to the *French* ; who them-

themselves urged that savage Power to turn its Sword against the Republic, to force it into a mean and scandalous Neutrality; who vilely bargain'd for their Liberties, their Religion, the invaluable Blessings which our Ancestors have bought with their Blood. Weak, corrupted Slaves! the Dupes of *French* Artifice, the Purchase of her Gold! Go, Scandal to your Country! ye are unworthy even the Name of *Dutchmen*, much more of the invaluable Privileges our heroic Fathers have transmitted to us.

We demand then, with Reason, Justice, and all that Right which God and Nature has invested us with, we demand that these Engines of Destruction, these Parricides, be immediately dismissed from their Employments: that the salutary Purposes of our illustrious Stadtholder, and the other noble Patriots, the *Bentincks*, *Van-Haren*, *Isma*, &c. be no longer clogged and obstructed by the subtle and treacherous Refinements of the *French* Faction, *G——— T———, Vander H———*, and others: the Men who betray our Resolutions to the ambitious *Lewis*; who dared openly declare, that they could with Pleasure see our Republic become a conquered Province to *France*, rather than the Prince of *Orange* should be Stadtholder; the last Resort that Providence had left us! Until such Traitors are delivered up to the Punishment, they deserve; at least, until they are forced to resume their original Insignificance; what effectual Encouragement has any Burgher, any private Person, to appear in his Country's Defence? Shall an honest Man expose his Fortune, his Life, to redress the Injuries which they have brought upon us, while they have it still in their Power to counteract his noblest Efforts, and reduce us again to Beggary, Chains, and Death? Where is the Recompence due
to

to the just and brave, while such a S—y is suffered to continue in his Office? In short, where is the just Discrimination, the proportioned Reward and Punishment preserved between the Evil and the Good? If this is not be found, then must the Religion, the Laws, and Liberties, of the Republic of the *United Provinces*, irrecoverable sink, and their Memorial be lost among the Nations of the Earth for ever.

F I N I S.



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